

**LPG dealership in Meghalaya**

1803. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of LPG agencies functioning in the State of Meghalaya at present; and
- (b) the details of proposals chalked out by Government to set up more LPG dealership in the State during the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) At present, 27 LPG distributorships of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) are operating in the State of Meghalaya.

(b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have plans to set up 6 new LPG distributorships in the State of Meghalaya under various Marketing Plans. The selection is made in a phased manner and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact number of allotments for LPG distributorships during 2001-2002 in the State.

**New Petrol Pumps / Gas Agencies in Meghalaya**

1804. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of petrol pump and gas agencies in Meghalaya;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) As on 1.4.2001, there were 57 retail outlet dealerships and 27 LPG distributorships in operation, in the State of Meghalaya.

Regular surveys are conducted for identifying locations in the States/Union Territories, including Meghalaya, for setting up retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships. The viable locations are included in the Marketing Plans.

In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 3 retail outlet dealership and 1LPG distributorship have been included in the retail outlet and LPG Marketing Plan 1999-2000 for the State of Meghalaya.

**Exploration of OH in coastal areas**

† 1805. SHRI JANESHWARMISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for exploring the petroleum and natural gas in various parts of the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is ample quantum of oil available in Indian coastal areas; and
- (c) if so, the details of action Government are taking to explore the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The general action plans for exploring petroleum and natural gas are outlined in five year Plan Documents which are further broken up by the National Oil Companies (NOCs) into their annual plans. Exploration programmes in the blocks awarded through competitive route are being implemented as per the work commitments of the operating companies.

(b) Prognosticated hydrocarbon resources for offshore areas of India are estimated to be about 18.7 Billion tonnes out of which geological reserves of about 3.94 Billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas have been established till 1.4.2001.

(c) In addition to the exploration programmes of National Oil Companies (NOCs) in respect of areas held by them on nomination basis, Government of India have been offering exploration acreages in offshore areas for exploration by Private / Joint Venture (JV) companies. During the various exploration rounds, floated by Government, including two rounds under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), a total of 49 offshore blocks (Shallow water 34-blocks, Deep Water\* 15 blocks) have been contracted for exploration by NOCs as also Private/ JV sector companies. Exploration activities are being extended in deeper offshore

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.